brney Docket No. <u>02138/LH</u>

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK\_OFFICE

Applicant(s): Yasuteru TAKAHAMA

Serial No. : 10/091,914

Filed

: March 6, 2002

For

: INVERTED MICROSCOPE SYSTEM

Art Unit

: 2872

Examiner

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Box Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 on the

date noted below.

Attorney: Leonard Holt

Dated: October 18

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time. and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee. or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

Submitted herewith are the following:

- 1. Copy of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0041438 A1, published April 11, 2002, which is the USPTO Publication of related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/955,857, filed September 19, 2001;
- Copy of related U.S. Patent Application Serial 2. No. 10/102,098, filed March 19, 2002, including a copy of the official Filing Receipt in said related application;
- 3. Copies of prior art cited by applicant in the aboveidentified related U.S. applications except for the



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Disclosure Statement in the present application on December 17, 2001); and

4. Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B listing the particulars thereon.

## CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE of RELATED APPLICATIONS

- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/091,914 (Publication No. US 2002/031165 A1), filed March 6, 2002, discloses an inverted microscope that shares basic functional units, including an imaging lens for forming an intermediate image of an observation sample and a focusing means for bringing the observation sample into focus. Additional units are combined with the basic functional units on the basis of the purpose for which the inverted microscope is used. With this structure, it is possible to reduce the manufacturing costs required for providing different types of microscopes and to flexibly cope with a variety of purposes.
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/102,098, filed March 19, 2002, discloses an inverted microscope comprising an objective lens disposed under a sample, and a tube lens which is disposed in a light path of an observation light emitted from the objective lens and which forms the observation light into an image. An incident light illumination optical device is disposed between the objective lens and the tube lens, and introduces

or introduces the light flux into the light path of the observation light.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner return initialed copies of the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B to confirm that the documents listed therein have all been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Holt Reg. No. 22/974

Dated: October 18, 2002

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C. 767 THIRD AVENUE - 25TH FLOOR New York, New York 10017-2023 Tel. No. (212) 319-4900 FAX No. (212) 319-5101 LH/sp

| U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF C |                        |                          |                   |                          |                         |                           |                            |                            |                                | TMENT OF COM                | MERCE               |                |  |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
|  | /<br>Substi            | for F                    | orm 144           | 9A/PTO                   | Application Number      |                           |                            |                            | 10/091,914                     |                             |                     |                |  |
| 1  | 4                      |                          |                   |                          |                         | Filing Date               |                            |                            |                                | March 6, 2002               |                     |                |  |
| 3  | STATEMENT BY APPLICANT |                          |                   |                          |                         | First Named Inventor      |                            |                            | Y                              | Yasuteru TAKAHAMA           |                     |                |  |
|  |                        |                          |                   |                          |                         | Group Art Unit            |                            |                            | 2                              | 2872                        |                     |                |  |
| \$   | , de                   |                          |                   |                          |                         | Examiner Name             |                            |                            |                                |                             |                     |                |  |
| of 2   |                        |                          |                   | Attorney Docket Number 0 |                         |                           | 02138/LH                   |                            |                                |                             |                     |                |  |
| U.S. PATENT DO   |                        |                          |                   |                          |                         |                           |                            | DOCUMENTS                  | 3                              |                             |                     |                |  |
|  | Exam.<br>Inits*        | Cite<br>No¹              | Document Number   |                          | Kind<br>Code²           | N                         | ame of Patent<br>Applicant |                            | Publication<br>Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevan<br>Portio           |                     |                |  |
|  |                        | US                       | US20              | 02/0041                  | 438                     | A1                        | Y                          | . ТАКАНАМА Е               | T AL                           | 04-11-2002                  |                     |                |  |
|  |                        |                          |                   |                          |                         |                           | 1                          | 5                          |                                |                             |                     |                |  |
|  |                        | FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                   |                          |                         |                           |                            |                            |                                |                             |                     |                |  |
|  | Exam<br>Inits          | Cite<br>No¹              | Offc <sup>3</sup> | Documer                  | nt Number⁴              | Kind<br>Code <sup>5</sup> | $\int_{\mathbb{N}}$        | ame of Patent<br>Applicant |                                | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant<br>Portion | T <sup>6</sup> |  |
| Ì  |                        |                          | DE                | 26 40                    | 974                     |                           | М                          | . MEYER et a               | 1 .                            | 03-23-1978                  |                     |                |  |
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|  |                        |                          | JP                | 11-727                   |                         | A                         | Т                          | oyoda et al                |                                | 03-16-1999                  |                     | *              |  |
|  |                        |                          | JP                | 11-194                   | 277                     | А                         | K                          | OTIHAWA                    |                                | 07-21-1999                  |                     | *              |  |
|  |                        |                          |                   | *Engli<br>Abstr          | sh languag<br>act only. | е                         |                            |                            |                                |                             |                     |                |  |
| Examin   |                        | er                       |                   |                          |                         | · ·                       |                            | Date                       |                                |                             |                     |                |  |

Signature

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

October 18, 2002 DATE MAILED:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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|     | Substitute  | for Fo       | orm 14   | 49A/PTO | 1   | Application Number 10/091,914  | 10/091,914           |    |  |  |  |
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| ( ) | ETAILE M  |              |  |         |     | First Named Yasuteru TAKA<br>Inventor  | Yasuteru TAKAHAMA    |    |  |  |  |
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|     | 10.   |              |  |         |     | Examiner Name  |                      |    |  |  |  |
|     | Sheet   | 2            |  | of      | 2   | Attorney Docket 02138/LH<br>Number   |                      |    |  |  |  |
|     | OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |              |  |         |     |  |                      |    |  |  |  |
|     | Examiner<br>Initials <sup>1</sup>                 | Cite<br>No.1 | Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article, title of item, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where publis |         |     |  | em, date,<br>olished | T² |  |  |  |
|     |   |              |  |         |     | Cation Serial No. Serial No. 10/102,098, filed March 19, TAKAHAMA et al; Title: INVERTED MICROSCOPE. |                      |    |  |  |  |
|     | Examiner<br>Signature                             |              |  |         |     | Date<br>Considered   |                      |    |  |  |  |

<sup>\*</sup> EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.